- ISSN 0966 – 7059

YSG

Jugopošta

Journal of

The Yugoslavia Study Group

www.yugosg.org



Number 152 December 2024

The Yugoslavia Study Group

Founded in 1984 to promote the study of the stamps and postal history of Yugoslavia, its predecessor and successor states

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Jugopošta is published by the Yugoslavia Study Group quarterly in March, June, September and December. Each issue (from March 2024) is produced only digitally covering a variety of subjects.

Additional copies of Jugopošta are available as shown on the back cover and a priced list of YSG publications is also located on the back cover.

Subscriptions to the Yugoslavia Study Group for 2024 (due on the 1 January each year) are as follows:

Printed copy membership has now been withdrawn.
Electronic membership (Jugopošta distributed by email): £5 worldwide. Don't forget to confirm your email address to the Treasurer when paying (email address above).

Payment of annual subscriptions may be made as follows

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Jugopošta





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Statement on the future of the Yugoslavia Study Group

As you will be aware, we made it clear in the September edition of Jugopošta that if a replacement Treasurer did not come forward we would have to consider closing YSG down at the end of this year. Tony Bosworth, Dave Foster, David Studholme and Nick Coverdale met online in October to discuss the situation. It was accepted that it was unlikely that a replacement Treasurer was going to be found. The following was decided and members informed by email:

- The key point was that YSG will not be closed down but from 1 January 2025 will no longer have formal membership and no subscriptions will be paid. Jugopošta will continue to be produced quarterly as an electronic journal and will be offered free of charge to anyone who requests and provides their name and email address to the Editor. This allows YSG to operate without needing a Treasurer and the handling of money.
- After 31 December 2024, YSG's bank account will be closed. The money in the account (about £1400) will be used to defray any current expenses and the ongoing cost of maintaining the website (see below), with the residue being donated to Stamp Active (an organisation run by volunteers in the UK to promote and support stamp-collecting amongst young people).
- The December edition of Jugopošta would be produced and distributed to members as per normal.
- The website will be maintained and redesigned as appropriate.
- YSG monographs and back numbers will continue to be available with details to be agreed.

Nick Coverdale will continue to edit Jugopošta and David Studholme will continue to maintain the website.

From the Editor

As stated above, this is the last edition of Jugopošta as the journal for members of the Yugoslavia Study Group. When I sent out the email to all members back in October, we were encouraged by the messages of support that we received. After 31 December, I will contact existing and former members inviting the provision of names and email addresses to receive Jugopošta under the new arrangement. It goes without saying of course that the continuation of Jugopošta will, as always, be dependent on the provision of articles to the Editor.

On page 5 there is an advertisement for a meeting at Europhilex in Birmingham on the afternoon of Friday 9th May 2025. All Jugopošta subscribers will be welcome to attend and to present if they so wish. There will be no charge for the meeting as the room cost is being covered by the Austrian Philatelic Society.

This edition of Jugopošta contains two main articles – one by Robert Lauer on the postal history of the Banat and Bačka, 1919 – 1921, and the other a continuation of the series of articles on Bosnia and Herzegovina by Boštjan Petauer.

The Europhilex International Exhibition is to be held in Birmingham from 7 to 11 May 2025. A 40-seat room has been reserved for the afternoon of **Friday 9 May, 1pm to 5pm**. There will be a meet'n'greet session from 1pm, with displays being shown from 1:30pm onwards. Anybody and everybody is welcome!

The room will have two tables, electric power, and 4 double-sided 16-A4-sheet display frames. These are standard 4x4 International frames; a row will take two A3 sheets sideways so presumably takes three "square A4". The meeting is free.

The meeting is intended for collectors of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and its successor states. Members or former members (as they will be then) are welcome. Preference in the displaying-queue will be given to visitors from outside the UK. Displays of top-quality copies of your actual sheets will be equally welcome, and might avoid Irritating Difficulties with His Majesty King Charles III's Revenue and Customs. Book your slot with Andy Taylor andy@kitzbuhel.co.uk.

Awards to YSG members

Alpen Adria 2024, 13 – 15 September, Amberg, Germany

Large Vermeil - Boštjan Petauer: ‘Slovenia: a new country with a rich past and amazing beauties’

Hafnia 24, 17 – 20 October, Copenhagen

Vermeil - Bostjan Petauer: ‘Bosnia SHS Postal Rates 1918 – 1921’

Vermeil - Lars-Olof Nilsson: ‘Postal cards before GPU 1874’

Balkanfila XX Thessaloniki 13 – 16 November 2024

Large Gold - Boštjan Petauer: ‘From Postal Stationery to Early Pictorials’

Gold - Veselko Gustin: ‘Dismembered Slovenia, 1941 – 45’

Future distribution of Jugopošta

You will have seen that in the New Year I will email existing and former members of YSG to invite the submission of a name and email address to receive future editions of the journal. However, recipients of this edition are welcome to email me any time if they wish to remain on distribution ( ).

Nick Coverdale

The use of Hungarian stamps, postal stationery and postal rates in the Banat and Bačka, 1919-1921

by Robert Lauer

I read, with a great deal of interest, Henk Buitenkamp's three part series "Which stamps are valid where and when in the SHS, 1918-1921" in the June, September and December 2022 issues of Jugopošta. I was especially interested in Part 3 of this series which dealt with the Banat and Bačka, which is a particular collecting interest of mine. In his article, Henk submits the following for the three regions into which he divides this area:

- **Banat** - Hungarian postal tariffs were used to July 1, 1919. These were replaced by a series local tariffs from July 1, 1919 until May 15, 1920, after which SHS kingdom postal tariffs were in use. Slovenian stamps were used in this area and Hungarian stamps were valid until March 15, 1920. The Temesvár Postal Directorate issued its own overprinted local stamps which were valid until March 15, 1920. These stamps were not available at all post offices in the Banat, and then only in small quantities.
- **Bačka** – Hungarian postal tariffs were used until July 1, 1919, after which SHS Kingdom postal tariffs were used. Slovenian stamps were used in this area and Hungarian stamps and postal stationery were valid until March 15, 1920.
- **Northern Bács-Bodrog** – Both Hungarian and Slovenian stamps were used here, if "Hungarian stamps were used, the Hungarian tariffs were valid and if the SHS stamps were used, the SHS tariffs had to be applied."

I would like to test these characterisations against both the philatelic sources to which I have access and the postal history in my collection, as well as that of some of my fellow collectors of this area.

The Banat and Bačka area of Southern Hungary was comprised of four counties, from west to east: Bács-Bodrog, Torontál, Temes and Krassó-Szörény. At the end of the First World War, the Hungarian postal administration of these four counties was managed by the Temesvár Postal Directorate. Most of this area was occupied by both the Serbian and Romanian Armies and almost all of it was ultimately divided between the new Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (SHS Kingdom) and Romania, with a small northern part of Bács-Bodrog county being returned to Hungary.

The Belgrade Military Convention, the armistice that ended the First World War on the southern "Balkan" front, was negotiated between the new republican Hungarian government of Count Mihaly Karolyi and the leader of the Entente's Armée d'Orient, the French General Franchet d'Esperey, and signed on November 13, 1918. The agreement stipulated that Hungarian forces were to withdraw to the north of Arad and Szeged, both of which would be occupied by French troops, and that the Serbian Army would occupy the area to the south and west of the Demarcation Line marked by the dotted line on the map in Figure 1.

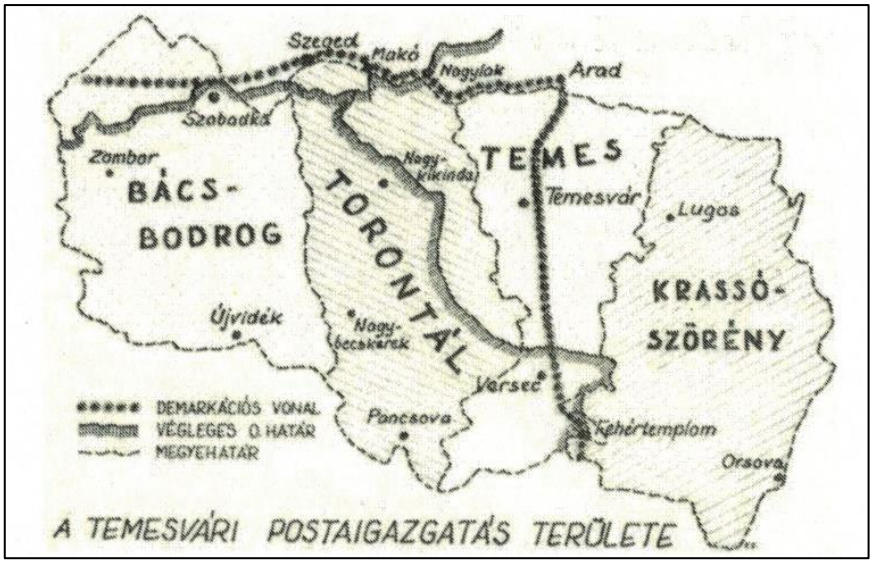


Figure 1: *the four counties of the Temesvár Postal Directorate in 1918.*

Before the ink was dry on the agreement, the Serbian Army crossed the Danube and Dráva rivers and marched north to occupy the cities of Zombor (Sombor), Szabadka (Subotica) and Baja, northwest of Zombor, in the Bačka on November 13th, Pécs and Mohács in Baranya, to the west, on November 15th, and Temesvár in the Banat on November 17th. In the east, the Serbian advance carried them well beyond the Demarcation Line, occupying Lugos and the western half of Krassó-Szörény by November 25, 1918. Under pressure from the Entente, the Serbian Army withdrew back to the Demarcation Line over the course of January 1919.

The Belgrade Military Convention also specified, though, that Hungarian civil administration was to remain in effect in areas occupied by Entente forces pending the final disposition of these areas through the peace treaties to formally end the War. This meant that Hungarian currency was to remain the legal tender and that Hungarian postal administration was to remain in place – Hungarian stamps and postal stationery were to remain valid and Hungarian postal tariffs were to continue to be used.

Table 1 sets out the main Hungarian postal rates in effect during the period immediately following the Serbian occupation of the Banat and Bačka.

Table 1: Hungarian Postal Tariffs, 15 June 1918 - 31 December 1919

	Inland Rates	Foreign Rates
Postcards	10f	10f
Letters/PSLC*	20f	25f
+ per additional 20 gr	5f	15f
Printed Matter	3f	5f
Registration	25f	25f
Express	60f	

* Local letters were 15f up to 20 grams.

Regular Hungarian postal tariffs remained in effect in all four counties of the Temesvár Postal Directorate until June 30, 1919. Figure 2 is a picture postcard sent from Pancsova (Pančevo), in Torontál County, to Prague in the new Czechoslovak Republic on January 2, 1919. The 10 fillér

Károly paid the then current Hungarian rate for an inland postcard. Hungarian inland rates applied to mail to the parts of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire until January 1, 1920.

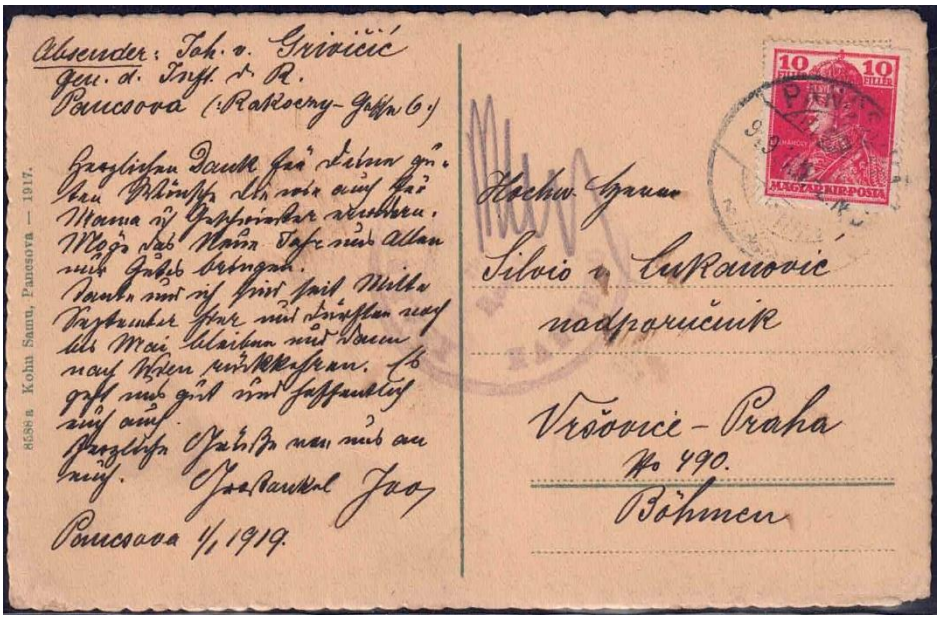


Figure 2: *a picture postcard sent from Pancsova to Prague, Czechoslovakia on January 2, 1919.*

Figure 3 is a picture postcard sent from Zombor (Sombor), in Bács-Bodrog county, to Surrey, England on May 5, 1919. The 10 fillér Károly stamp paid the then current Hungarian rate for a foreign postcard.

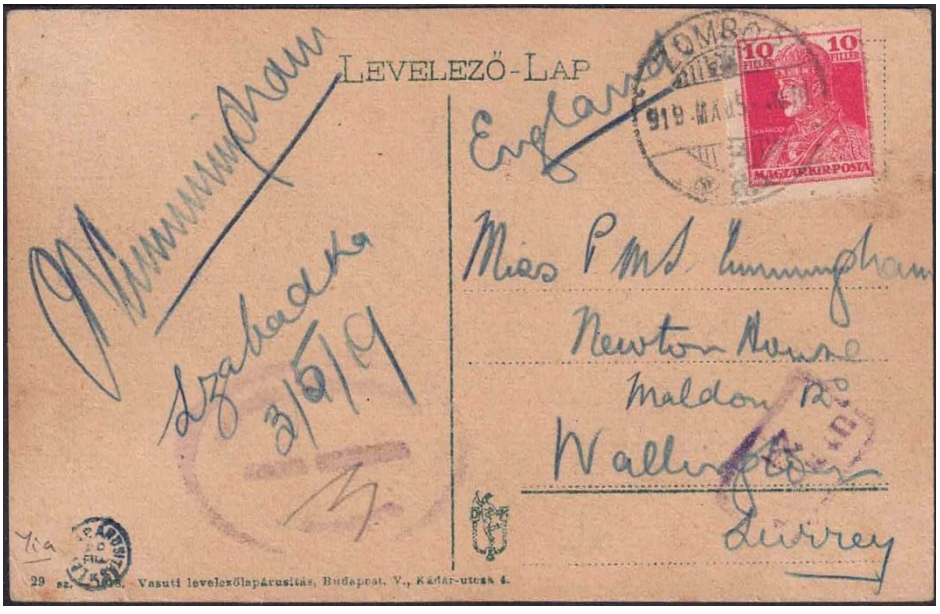


Figure 3: *a picture postcard sent from Zombor to Surrey England on May 5, 1919.*

Figure 4 is a Hungarian postal stationery card sent from Nagykikinda (Vel. Kikinda) to Pancsova (Pančevo), both in Torontál County, on May 22, 1919. The 10 fillér indicium of the card paid the then current Hungarian inland postcard rate.

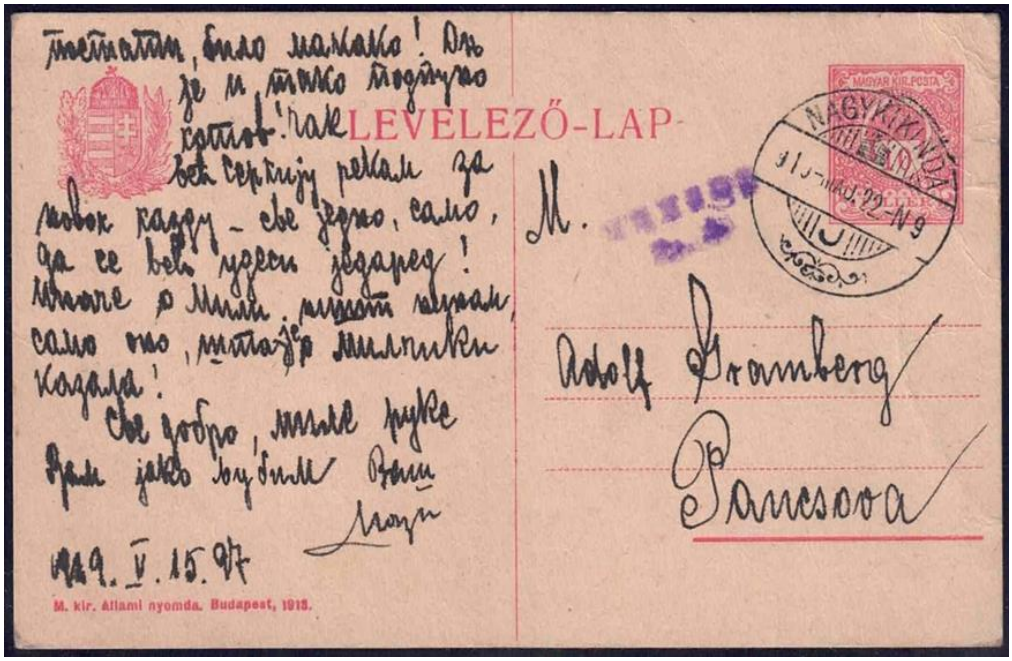


Figure 4: *a postal stationery card sent from Nagykikinda to Pancsova on May 22, 1919.*

My article, "The use of Hungarian stamps and postal stationery in the Serbian occupied Bánát, 1918-1919" in the June 2020 issue of Jugopošta illustrates a few more examples of mail franked at Hungarian rates during this period.

The main differences between occupied and un-occupied Hungary were in the mix of postage stamps used and, in some instances, the continued use of stamps that were no longer valid for postage in unoccupied Hungary. Just after the Serbian Army completed its occupation of the Banat and Bačka, on November 23, 1918, the Hungarian post office overprinted existing stocks of the postage stamps issued during 1916-18 with "KÖZTÁRSASÁG". While some of these stamps did wind up making their way through the Serbian lines to post offices in the Banat and Bačka, it is much less common to find mail franked with the "KÖZTÁRSASÁG" overprints in these occupied areas of Hungary, whereas in unoccupied Hungary, it is rare to find mail franked with these stamps that have not been overprinted, especially ones from the Károly-Zita series.



Figure 5: *the stamps of the first Temesvár issue under Serbian occupation.*

Since the beginning of the Serbian occupation, communication with, and shipments of new postage stamps from, Budapest had been at best sporadic and at worst non-existent. By the spring of 1919, any relationship with Budapest had been severed due to the chaos resulting from the seizure of power by Béla Kun and the communists in March 1919. In May 1919, the Temesvár Postal Directorate decided to surcharge some of the large quantities of two obsolete stamps in its inventory with more useful rates. The 2 fillér Harvester stamps from the 1916 issue, which was originally issued for the domestic printed matter rate, was now pretty well useless given the increase in this rate to 3 fillér in June 1918. These stamps were surcharged "10 fillér", corresponding to the then current Hungarian postcard rate. The 10 fillér +2 fillér stamp from the 1916 War Charity issue was surcharged "45 fillér", which corresponded to the cost of a registered inland letter. (See my article "The Temesvár postage stamp issues under Serbian occupation, 1919" in the June 2020 issue of Jugopošta for a detailed

description of this issue and subsequent issues of the Temesvár Postal Directorate under Serbian occupation during 1919.) These two stamps of the first Temesvár issue under Serbian occupation are illustrated in Figure 5. For whatever reason, these stamps were not widely distributed to the various post offices in the Banat and Bačka and their use on non-philatelic mail is not that common. Figure 6 illustrates an old Hungarian feldpost card sent from Temesvár to Linz, in Austria, on June 16, 1919. The Temesvár surcharged 10 fillér on 2 fillér Harvester paid the Hungarian 10 fillér foreign postcard rate in effect at the time.



Figure 6: *a Hungarian 'Tábori' postcard franked with a Temesvár surcharged 10 fillér on 2 fillér Harvester sent from Temesvár to Linz, Austria on June 16, 1919.*

The severing of any relationship with General Postal Directorate in Budapest also meant that the Temesvár Postal Directorate was on it own from a financial perspective – its own revenue was the only source of funds for paying its employees. With its coffers empty, the Temesvár Postal Directorate decided to increase the postal tariffs in effect for all of the four counties under its administration effective July 1, 1919. Table 2 sets out these "Temesvár" postal rates.

Table 2: The Temesvár Postal Directorate Tariffs from 1 July 1919

	Inland Rates	Foreign Rates
Postcards	30f	30f
Letters/PSLC	50f	75f
+ per additional 20 gr	20f	[25f]*
Printed Matter	10f	15f
Registration	1K	75f
Express	2K	1K

* The 25 fillér rate for each additional 20 grams for foreign letters has been inferred from actual mailings.

The Temesvár Postal Directorate also issued four surcharged regular stamps and three postage due stamps consistent with these new postage rates. These seven stamps are illustrated in Figure 7.

The 30 fillér stamp paid the inland and foreign postcard rate, the 50 fillér stamp the inland letter rate and the 1 Korona 50 fillér stamps the cost of both an inland and foreign registered letter.



Figure 7: *the seven stamps of the second Temesvár issue under Serbian occupation.*

Many of the stamps of this second Temesvár issue were distributed to postal employees in lieu of wages, who in turn sold them to dealers and collectors. Again, the non-philatelic use of these stamps on mail is relatively rare.

In June 1919, the new SHS Kingdom and Romania came to an agreement on the partition of the three counties of the Banat, with Romania getting the area to the east and north of the shaded line on the map in Figure 1 and the SHS Kingdom getting the area to the south and west of this line. As a result, Serbian forces withdrew from Temesvár and the rest of northern Temes County in late July 1919 and the area was occupied by the Romanians in early August 1919.

When the Romanians occupied Temesvár in early August 1919, the operations of the Temesvár Postal Directorate were transferred to Nagybecskerek (Vel. Bečkerek) in south-central Torontál County. In the Serbian occupied/SHS Kingdom portion of the Banat and in the Bačka (Bács-Bodrog and parts of Torontál and Temes counties), the July 1, 1919 Temesvár Postal Directorate tariffs continued to be in effect. These rates were eventually replaced by the postal tariffs of the SHS Kingdom, but as Tønnes Ore notes in his "Banat and Bačka" monograph for the Yugoslavia Study Group (Monograph #4, Jugopošta #77, March 2006), "the actual date when this happened is unclear". Tables 3 and 4 set out the main Temesvár and SHS Kingdom postal rates.

Table 3: Temesvár and SHS Kingdom Inland Postal Rates

	Temesvár Postal Rates	SHS Kingdom Postal Rates	
	fillér	fillér = vinar	
	1 July 1919 –	1 July 1919 – 15 May 1920	16 May 1920 – 1 May 1921
Postcards	30f	15f	15p (60f)
Letters/Lettercards	50f	30f	25p (1K)
+ per 20grm	20f	30f	15p (60f)
Printed Matter	10f	10f	5p (20f)
Registration	1K	60f	20p (80f)
Express	60f	1K	60p (2K40)

Table 4: Temesvár and SHS Kingdom Foreign Postal Rates

	Temesvár Postal Rates	SHS Kingdom Postal Rates	
	fillér	fillér = vinar	
	1 July 1919 –	30 August 1919 – 31 May 1920	1 June 1920 – 1 April 1921
Postcards	30f	30f	20p (80f)
Letters/Lettercards	75f	75f	50p (2K)
+ per 20grm	[25f]*	45f	40p (1K20)
Printed Matter	15f	15f	10p (40f)
Registration	75f	75f	50p (2K)
Express	1K		60p (2K40)

* Inferred from actual mailings.

From May 16, 1920, SHS Kingdom postal rates were set in para and Dinar and converted into the old Hungarian currency at an exchange rate of 4 fillér = 1 para.

The Temesvár Postal Directorate tariffs were in effect in both the northern and southern portions of the Bačka, as there was no distinction between the two portions of Bács-Bodrog county until the line was drawn through it by the Treaty of Trianon in June 1920. Figure 8 illustrates a letter sent from Baja, in the northern portion of the Bács-Bodrog county, which was returned to Hungary under the Treaty of Trianon, to Ószivacz (Sivac), in the southern portion of the Bačka, which became part of the SHS Kingdom, on December 22, 1919. The 50 fillér in unoverprinted Károly stamps paid the "Temesvár" inland letter rate of 50 fillér, as opposed Hungarian inland letter rate of 25 fillér.



Figure 8: *a letter sent from Baja to Oszivacz, both in Bács-Bodrog county, on December 16, 1919, franked with 50f in Hungarian stamps to pay the Temesvár inland letter rate of 50f.*

Hungarian stamps, including those overprinted and surcharged by the Temesvár Postal Directorate, and postal stationery remained valid in the Serbian occupied/SHS Kingdom portion of the Banat and in the Bačka. However, as inventories of these stamps ran down in November/December 1919, the SHS Kingdom postal authorities started to supply post offices in the area with stamps from the SHS "Chainbreaker" series, which were originally issued for use in Slovenia. These stamps were also supplied to the post offices in Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina as supplies of Hungarian and local issues ran low there. Zdenek Skok, in his exhibition on Exponet, "Slovenian Issues from 1919 and 1920 in Mixed Frankings" illustrates a number of uses of Slovenian Chainbreakers in the Banat and Bačka from November and December 1919, the earliest of these is in Bacsfoldavár (Bačko Gradište) on November 3, 1919. The others are Karlova (Banatski Karlovac) on 919.NOV.2, Hódság (Odžaci) on 919.DEC.18, Zombor (Sombor) on 919.DEC.19, Ujvidék (Novi Sad) on 919.DEC.26, Bajmok on 919.DEC.27 and Mélykút on 919.DEC.31. Figure 9 illustrates two relatively early uses of Slovenian Chainbreakers in the the Banat and Bačka.



Figure 9: *a 30 vinar Chainbreaker on piece cancelled in Újvidék on December 30, 1919 and a 20 vinar Chainbreaker on a Hungarian postal money order cancelled January 23, 1920 in Pancsova.*

In the absence of a definitive source with respect to when the Temesvár Postal Directorate postal tariffs were replaced by those of the SHS Kingdom, one is left with looking at the postal history to get a sense of when this happened. From July 1, 1919 through January 1920, all of the mail that I have seen, or seen reference to, is posted at the Temesvár Postal Directorate rates. After May 15, 1920, when the new SHS Kingdom postal rates based on the para and Dinar came into effect, all of the mail that I have seen, or seen reference to, is posted at the SHS Kingdom rates. This latter date intuitively makes sense as the date for SHS Kingdom postal rates to have taken effect. However, based upon the evidence that I have collected from actual pieces of mail, I do not think this date is the correct point in time for the transition between the two sets of postal rates.

Tables 5 and 6, on the next two pages, list all of the mail that I have, or have found reference to, from the Serbian occupied/SHS Kingdom portion of the Banat and the Bačka posted at the Temesvár Postal Directorate rates from October 1919 through March 1920 (Table 5) and posted at the SHS Kingdom rates during the period from the beginning of February through May 16, 1920 (Table 6). Given that SHS postal tariffs were significantly lower than the Temesvár Postal

Directorate rates, the only entries in Table 5 that are conclusive with respect to the rate used are those items which are either registered or postage due – these would have had the going rate applied to them by a postal clerk in a post office. Other items such as regular postcards and letters could have been dropped in a post box and would have been processed as long as they were franked with sufficient postage; they are therefore only indicative of official postal tariffs in effect.

Table 5: Mail Franked at Temesvár Rates, October 1919 to March 1920

Cancellation	Details	Source
919 OKT 9	Pancsova (Torontál) to Tuzla, Bosnia, registered 10f Hungarian postal stationery card franked with 1K27 in Temesvár and Hungarian stamps vs Temesvár rate of 1K30.	*Nagy*
919 OKT 28	Fehértemplom (Temes) to Vienna, Austria, registered commercial letter franked with 1K50 in Hungarian postage due stamps marked FRANCO vs Temesvár rate of 1K50.	*Ore*
919 NOV 4	Pancsova (Torontál) to Vienna, Austria, postcard franked with 20f in Temesvár stamps vs Temesvár rate of 30f, no postage due assessed.	*Nagy*
919 NOV 25	Bezdán (Bács-Bodrog) to Zombor (Bács-Bodrog), commercial letter franked with a 45f Temesvár stamp vs Temesvár rate of 50f, assessed 10f postage due.	*Nagy*
919 NOV 26	Bezdán (Bács-Bodrog) to Zombor (Bács-Bodrog), letter franked with a 47f in Temesvár and Hungarian stamps vs Temesvár rate of 50f, assessed 6f postage due.	*Ore*
919 NOV 30	Nagygáj (Temes) to Tamásfalva (Torontál), registered express letter franked with 3K50 in Temesvár and Hungarian stamps vs Temesvár rate of 3K50.	*Nagy*
919 DEC 2	Nagybecskerek (Torontál) to Pecs (Baranya), postcard franked with 30f in Temesvár and Slovenian stamps vs Temesvár rate of 30f.	*Ore (JP#91)*
919 DEC 16	Ujvidék (Bács-Bodrog) to Sarajevo, Bosnia, registered letter franked with 1K50 in Temesvár, Croatian and Hungarian stamps vs Temesvár rate of 1K50.	*Nagy (Ore)*
919 DEC ?	Szabadka (Bács-Bodrog) to Beograd, Serbia (23.12.19), commercial letter franked with 50f in Hungarian stamps vs Temesvár rate of 50f.	*Ore*
919 DEC 22	Pancsova (Torontál) to Usora in Bosnia, registered letter franked with 1K55 in Temesvár and Hungarian stamps vs Temesvár rate of 1K50.	*Kohalmi*
919 DEC 22	Baja (Bács-Bodrog) to Ószivacz, (Bács-Bodrog), letter franked with 50f Hungarian stamps vs the Temesvár rate of 50f.	*Lauer*
919 DEC 26	Ujvidék (Bács-Bodrog) to Vienna, Austria, registered letter franked with 1K50 in Hungarian stamps vs Temesvár rate of 1K50.	*Lauer*
920 JAN 6	Pancsova (Torontál) to Homokbálványos (Torontál), unfranked postcard vs Temesvár rate of 30f, assessed 60f in postage due.	*Ore*
920 MAR 6	Zenta (Bács-Bodrog) to Budapest, Hungary, registered 10f Hungarian postal stationery card franked with 1K50 in Temesvár stamps vs Temesvár rate of 1K30.	*Nagy (Ore)*
920 MAR 14	Zombor (Bács-Bodrog) to New York, USA, registered letter franked with 1K75 in Slovenian stamps vs Temesvár foreign letter rate for 2nd weight step of 1K75 (assuming that the additional amount for each weight step for foreign letters was 25f).	*Lauer*
920 MAR 26	Zombor (Bács-Bodrog) to Vienna, Austria, 10v Slovenian postal stationery card franked with 20v in Slovenian stamps vs Temesvár rate of 30f.	*eBay*

Table 6: Mail Franked at SHS Kingdom Rates February to May 1920

Cancellation	Details	Source
920 FEB 10	Fehértemplom (Temes) to Zagreb, Croatia, postcard franked with 5f in Hungarian and 10v in Slovenian stamps vs the SHS Inland rate of 15f. (Temesvár rate = 30f.)	*Sevenhuijsen*
920 FEB 17	Zombor (Bács-Bodrog) to Vienna, Austria, 10f Hungarian postal stationery card franked with a 10v Slovenian postage due stamp (used as a regular postage stamp) vs SHS Inland rate of 15f. (Temesvár rate = 30f.)	*Lauer*
920 FEB 28	Nagybecskerek (Torontál) to Beocsin, Croatia, registered commercial letter franked with 90f in Hungarian and Slovenian stamps vs SHS Inland rate of 90f. (Temesvár rate = 1K50.)	*Ore*
920 MAR 3	Ujvidék (Bács-Bodrog) to Pécs (Baranya), 10f Hungarian postal stationery card franked with a bisected 15v Slovenian stamp (7½v) vs SHS Inland rate of 15f. (Temesvár rate = 30f.)	*Ore*
920 MAR 8	Szabadka (Bács-Bodrog) to Zenta (Bács-Bodrog), postcard franked with a 20v Slovenian stamp vs the SHS Inland rate of 15f. (Temesvár rate = 30f.)	*Lauer*
920 MAR 16	Mohol (Bács-Bodrog) to Cetinje, Montenegro, 10f Hungarian postal stationery card franked with a 5v Slovenian stamp vs the SHS Inland rate of 15f. (Temesvár rate = 30f.)	*Lauer*
920 MAR 16	Palanka (Bács-Bodrog) to Jajce, Bosnia, registered letter franked with 90f in Hungarian and Slovenia stamps vs SHS Inland rate of 90f. (Temesvár rate = 1K50.)	*Lauer*
920 APR 8	Szabadka (Bács-Bodrog) to Belgrade, Serbia, postcard franked with a 15v Slovenian stamp vs SHS Inland rate of 15f. (Temesvár rate = 30f.)	*Lauer*
920 APR 10	Szabadka (Bács-Bodrog) to Zagreb, Croatia, 10f Hungarian postal stationery card franked with a 15v Slovenian stamp vs SHS Inland rate of 15f. (Temesvár rate = 30f.)	*Sevenhuijsen*
920 APR 11	Bacsfoldvár (Bács-Bodrog) to Zombor (Bács-Bodrog), 10f Hungarian postal stationery card franked with a 5v Slovenian stamp vs SHS Inland rate of 15f. (Temesvár rate = 30f.)	*Lauer*
920 APR 19	Szabadka (Bács-Bodrog) to Ujverbász (Bács-Bodrog), registered express letter franked with 1K90 in Hungarian and Slovenian stamps vs SHS Inland rate of 1K90. (Temesvár rate = 3K50.)	*Rogina*
920 MAJ 11	Szabadka (Bács-Bodrog) to Szárcsa (Torontál), letter franked with 31v/f in Hungarian and Slovenia stamps vs SHS Inland rate of 30f. (Temesvár rate = 50f.)	*Skok*
1920 May 16: New SHS Kingdom postal rates in para/Dinar take effect.		
920 MAJ 23	Bacsordas (Bács-Bodrog) to Ljubljana, Slovenia, 10f Hungarian postal stationery card franked with a 50v Slovenian stamp vs SHS Inland rate of 60f.	*eBay*
920 MAJ 26	Baja (Bács-Bodrog) to Ljubljana, Slovenia, registered commercial letter franked with 180v in Slovenian stamps vs SHS Inland rate of 180f.	*Lauer*

Figures 10 and 11 illustrate two of the items from Table 5 which support the contention that the Temesvár Postal Directorate rates were in effect through December 1919.



Figure 10: *a registered letter sent from Pancsova to Usora in Bosnia & Herzegovina on December 22, 1919 franked with 1K75 in Hungarian and Temesvár stamps to pay the 2nd weight step Temesvár registered inland letter rate of 1K70 (from the collection of Csaba L. Kohalmi).*



Figure 11: *a registered letter sent from Ujvidék to Vienna on December 26, 1919 franked with 1K50 in Hungarian stamps to pay the Temesvár registered inland letter rate of 1K50.*

Tønnes Ore, in his monograph, also illustrates an unfranked postcard sent from Pancsova (Pančevo) to Homokbálványos (Bavanište) on January 6, 1920, which was assessed 60f in postage due consistent with the Temesvár postcard rate of 30f. The last piece of mail in Table 5 that is reflective of the postal rates in effect at the time is illustrated in Figure 12. It is a registered foreign letter sent from Zombor (Sombor) to New York on March 14, 1920 franked with 1K75 in Slovenian

stamps to comply with the Temesvár rate for a 2nd weight step international letter of 1K75 (assuming that the weight increment for international letters was 25f for each additional 20 grams). The SHS Kingdom rate at the time for such a letter would have been 1K95.



Figure 12: *a registered letter sent from Zombor to New York on March 14, 1920 franked with 1K75 in Slovenian stamps to pay the Temesvár 2nd weight step foreign registered letter rate of 1K75.*

In Table 6, the relationship between items mailed and rates is the inverse of that in Table 5, in that SHS Kingdom rates were lower than Temesvár rates. Thus, any piece of mail that was not charged postage due is reflective of SHS Kingdom postal tariffs being used. The first piece of mail processed at SHS Kingdom rates in Table 6 is a postcard from Féhertemplom (Bela Crkva) to Zagreb, Croatia, sent on February 10, 1920 illustrated in Figure 13. The Temesvár postcard rate was 30f and there is no sign of any postage due being charged on this card.



Figure 13: *a postcard sent from Féhertemplom to Zagreb on February 10, 1920 franked with 5f in Hungarian and 10v in Slovenian stamps to pay the SHS Kingdom inland postcard rate of 15f (from the collection of Johan Sevenhuijsen).*



Figure 14: *a 10f Hungarian postal stationery card sent from Zombor to Vienna on February 17, 1920 franked with a 10v SHS postage due stamp used as regular postage to more than pay the SHS Kingdom inland postcard rate of 15f.*

Figures 14 and 15 illustrate two postcards mailed in February and early March 1920 that were franked with 20 fillér or vinar. Both of these cards were franked by 5 fillér or vinar over the SHS inland postcard rate of 15 fillér or vinar, but well shy of the Temesvár postcard rate of 30f. In each case there is no evidence of any postage due being charged, which would have been the case had the Temesvár rates been enforced.



Figure 15: *a postcard sent from Szabadka to Zenta on March 8, 1920 franked with a 20v Slovenian stamp to more than pay the SHS Kingdom inland postcard rate of 15f.*

Tønnes Ore, in his monograph, illustrates two items franked at SHS Kingdom rates in February and March 1920: a registered commercial letter sent from Nagybecskerek (Vel. Bečkerek) to Beocsin (Beočin) franked with 50f in Hungarian and 40v in Slovenian stamps to pay the SHS Kingdom inland registered letter rate of 90f (Temesvár rate = 1K50); and a 10f Hungarian postal stationery card uprated with a bisected 15v Slovenian stamp (7½v) to pay the SHS Kingdom postcard rate of 15f (Temesvár rate = 30f). Figures 16 through 19 illustrate four more examples of postcards sent at SHS Kingdom rates in March, April and early May 1920. In none of these cases is there any sign of postage due being charged.



Figure 16: *a 10f Hungarian postal stationery card sent from Mohol to Cetinje, Montenegro, on March 16, 1920 uprated with a 5v Slovenian stamp to pay the SHS Kingdom inland postcard rate of 15f.*



Figure 17: *a postcard sent from Szabadka to Beograd, Serbia, on April 8, 1920 franked with a 15v Slovenian stamp to pay the SHS Kingdom inland postcard rate of 15f.*



Figure 18: *a 10f Hungarian postal stationery card sent from Bacsfoldvár to Zombor on April 11, 1920 uprated with a 5v Slovenian stamp to pay the SHS Kingdom inland postcard rate of 15f.*

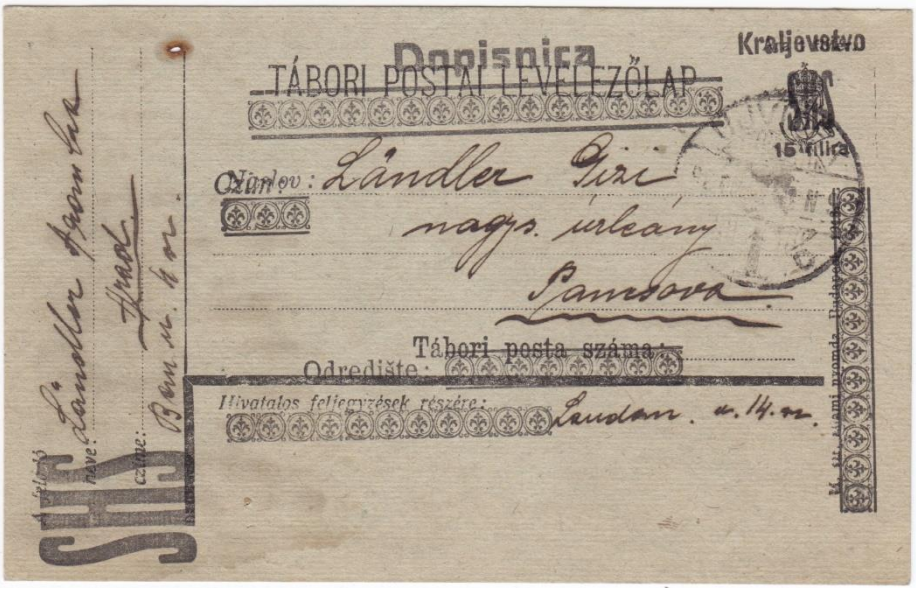


Figure 19: *a Hungarian Tábori postcard surcharged 15f by the SHS Kingdom postal authorities in Croatia to pay the SHS Kingdom inland postcard rate sent from Ujvidék to Pancsova on May 4, 1920 (from the collection of Paul de Leeuw van Weenen).*

Figure 20 illustrates a registered letter sent from Palánka (Bačka Palanka), in Bács-Bodrog county, to Jajce, in Bosnia, franked with a 75f Hungarian Parliament and a 15v Slovenian Chainbreaker to pay the SHS Kingdom registered inland letter rate of 90v in effect at the time. This letter would have had to have been taken to the post office for registration. The Temesvár rate for such a letter would have been 1K50.



Figure 20: *a registered letter sent from Palanka to Jajce in Bosnia on March 16, 1920 franked with 75f in Hungarian and 15f in Slovenian stamps to pay the SHS Kingdom registered inland letter rate.*

Figure 21 illustrates a registered express letter sent from Szabadka (Subotica) to Ujverbász (Vrbas) on April 19, 1920 franked with 20f in Hungarian and 1K70 in Slovenian stamps to pay the SHS Kingdom rate for an inland registered express letter. A receiving strike for Ujverbász on April 20, 1920 is on the back of the envelope. Again, the sender of this letter would have had to go into the post office to get it registered. The Temesvár rate for such a letter would have been 3K50.



Figure 21: *a registered express letter sent from Szabadka to Ujverbász on April 19, 1920 franked with 20f in Hungarian and 1K70 in Slovenian stamps to pay the SHS Kingdom rate for a registered inland express letter (from the collection of Nenad Rogina, courtesy of William Maddocks).*

Finally, Zdenek Skok, in his exhibition on Exponet, illustrates a letter sent from Szabadka (Subotica) to Szárcsa (Sutjeska) franked with 6f in Hungarian and 25v in Slovenian stamps to pay the SHS Kingdom inland letter rate of 30f. Again, there is no evidence of any postage due having been assessed.

From the evidence above, it would appear that the Temesvár Postal Directorate rates were in effect until March 15 1920, when all of stamp issues of the Temesvár Postal Directorate were invalidated in both Romania and the SHS Kingdom, but that during February and early March 1920, the post office tolerated mail franked at the SHS Kingdom rates and would register mail at the SHS Kingdom rate if requested by the sender. I would submit that the reason for this was rooted in developments at the Paris Peace Conference. With the presentation of the draft terms for the Treaty of Trianon to the Hungarian delegation to the Paris Peace Conference on January 7, 1920, it must have been apparent to all concerned that the vast majority of this area would become part of the SHS Kingdom as a result of the Paris peace process. Given this, any value of maintaining the façade of Hungarian civil and postal administration in these territories, as represented by the Temesvár Postal Directorate rates, was becoming increasingly limited. Getting rid of the Temesvár Postal Directorate rates on March 15, 1920, at the same time as the postal validity of the Temesvár issued stamps, would seem to have a great deal of logic to it.

While all of the catalogues and other sources referenced agree that the various stamp issues of the Temesvár Postal Directorate were invalidated for postage in both Romania and the SHS Kingdom on March 15, 1920,[1.] there is a lack of consistency between various sources on the continued validity of Hungarian stamps and postal stationery beyond this date. Tønnes Ore, in his monograph, maintains that "*Hungarian stamps and stationery* and *locally made provisional occupation issues* were made invalid in both countries" (his emphasis) on March 15, 1920. Dan

Grecu, in his article for the Stamps of Hungary, "Hungarian postal material used by the Romanian administration in the Banat and Transylvania – after 1919", supports March 15, 1920 as the date that Hungarian stamps were invalidated in the Romanian portion of the Banat. In contrast, Helmut Kobelbauer, in his Monograph for the Yugoslavia Study Group (Monograph #14, Jugopošta #128, December 2018), "The Slovenian Stamps of 1919 and 1920 in Mixed Frankings" indicates that the SHS postal authority in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, "was the only one that limited the validity of the previous stamps". Roger Morell, in his article "On the trail of the 1919 overprints, Part 15: overprinted Hungarian stamped postal stationery" in the Stamps of Hungary (No. 290, June 2017) maintains that "[u]noverprinted and overprinted [Hungarian postal] stationery continued to be valid until 15 April 1921."

I have a note from a source, which for the life of me I cannot identify, that on June 20, 1920, the SHS Kingdom Ministry of Posts announced that stamps in all of the old Austro-Hungarian currencies would no longer be valid from October 1, 1920, though in practice they were frequently still accepted until April 15, 1921 and that postal stationery in the old Austro-Hungarian currencies would cease to be valid on April 15, 1921, when these currencies ceased to be legal tender in the SHS Kingdom. (The source for the last part of this note may in fact be Roger Morrell's article, but I have no idea.) Again, one is forced to take a look at what actually happened on the ground to determine which of these assertions is more likely to be correct.

The registered express letter sent from Szabadka (Subotica) to Ujverbász (Vrbas) cancelled April 19, 1920, illustrated in Figure 21, illustrates the continued use of Hungarian stamps after March 15, 1920. Zdenek Skok, in his Exponet exhibit, also illustrates a number of parcel cards and money order cards/cuttings from places in the Serbian occupied Banat and Bačka that have Hungarian stamps used in the franking: Torzsa (Savina Selo) on March 26, 1920; Palánka (Bačka Palanka) on March 31, 1920; Fehértemplom (Bela Crkva) on March 21, 1920; and Nagybecskerek (Vel. Bečkerek) on April 16, 1920, as well as the cover sent from Szabadka to Szárcsa in Torontál county cancelled on May 11, 1920 that is included in Table 6. Figures 22 and 23 illustrate two more examples of Hungarian stamps used to frank money order and parcel cards after March 15, 1920.



Figure 22: *a cutting from a parcel card cancelled at Pancsova on March 22, 1920.*



Figure 23: *a cutting from a money order card cancelled at Zombor on April 13, 1920 (from the collection of Johan Sevenhuijsen).*

If Hungarian stamps were invalidated for postal purposes in the Serbian occupied/SHS Kingdom portion of the Banat and Bačka on March 15, 1920, clearly post-office clerks either didn't get the memo or chose to ignore it. The postal evidence seems to be consistent with my note about the SHS Kingdom Ministry of Posts making stamps in all of the old Austro-Hungarian currencies valid until October 1, 1920.

With respect to the validity of Hungarian postal stationery, in both the uprated Hungarian postal stationery card illustrated in Figure 18 (April 11, 1920) and the card illustrated in Figure 24, the Hungarian indicia of the card was required to pay the existing SHS Kingdom postcard rate.



Figure 24: *a 10f Hungarian postal stationery card sent from Bácsordas to Ljubljana on May 23, 1920 uprated with a 50v Slovenian stamp to pay the current SHS Kingdom inland postcard rate of 60f (eBay).*

In spite of his insistence that Hungarian postal stationery was invalidated on March 15, 1920, in his Monograph, Tønnes Ore illustrates a 10f Hungarian postal stationery card sent from Bácsalmás to Budapest, Hungary, on June 21, 1920 uprated with 50v in Slovenian stamps to comply with the then current 15 para/60f SHS Kingdom inland postcard rate and a 35f Hungarian registered postal

stationery envelope sent from Pancsova (Pančevo) to Tuzla in Bosnia and Herzegovina on July 20, 1920 uprated with 1K65 in Slovenian stamps to pay the current SHS Kingdom rate for a registered inland letter of 45 para/1K80. In both cases, the Hungarian indicia was needed to pay the current postal tariff. Given the above examples, it is much more likely that un-overprinted Hungarian postal stationery remained valid until April 15, 1921.

Circling back to Henk Buitenkamp's characterizations of which stamps were valid where and when during the 1918-21 period in these regions of the SHS Kingdom:

- **Banat** - Hungarian postal tariffs were used to July 1, 1919. These were replaced by a series local tariffs from July 1, 1919 until May 15, 1920, afterwhich SHS kingdom postal tariffs were in use. Slovenian stamps were used in this area and Hungarian stamps were valid until March 15, 1920. The Temesvár Postal Directorate issued its own overprinted local stamps which were valid until March 15, 1920. These stamps were not available at all post offices in the Banat, and then only in small quantities.
- **Bačka** – Hungarian postal tariffs were used until July 1, 1919, afterwhich SHS Kingdom postal tariffs were used. Slovenian stamps were used in this area and Hungarian stamps and postal stationery were valid until March 15, 1920.
- **Northern Bács-Bodrog** – Both Hungarian and Slovenian stamps were used here, if "Hungarian stamps were used, the Hungarian tariffs were valid and if the SHS stamps were used, the SHS tariffs had to be applied."

I would submit that the above philatelic evidence suggests the following revisions to Henk's characterization of postal situation in the Bačka and the Serbian occupied portion of the Banat:

1. The distinction that Henk makes between the northern part of Bács-Bodrog, which was returned to Hungary under the Treaty of Trianon, and the southern portion, which remained part of the SHS Kingdom, appears to be artificial. This division was only created by the Treaty of Trianon. Prior to this, the entire county was part of the Temesvár Postal Directorate and mail was subject to the postal rates that were in effect in all of the area under its administration.
2. Throughout the area, Hungarian postal tariffs were in effect until June 30, 1919. From July 1, 1919 through March 14, 1920, the special local postal tariffs of the Temesvár Postal Directorate were in effect in the Bačka and the Serbian occupied portion of the Banat, with the caveat that it would appear that SHS Kingdom rates could be used on request from early February 1920. From March 15, 1920, it would appear that SHS Kingdom postal rates were in effect throughout the entire area.
3. It would appear that Hungarian stamps and postal stationery continued to be accepted for postage after March 15, 1920. The available postal evidence seems to support the notion that Hungarian stamps remained valid until October 1, 1920 and that Hungarian postal stationery remained valid until April 15, 1921.

Note

1. In his Exponet exhibit, Zdenek Skok illustrates a parcel card franked with a 10f on 2f Harvester from the first Temesvár issue cancelled in Feketető in Torontál County on August 16, 1920.



This is the only example that I have seen of the use of these stamps after the March 15, 1920 date that they were invalidated, so it is probably just an error on the part of a postal clerk. The fact that it is relatively easy to get one's hands on complete sheets of the various Temesvár issue stamps also supports the idea that they were invalidated for postal use on March 15, 1920.

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Bosnia 1916 - stamps for express delivery of printed matter

by Boštjan Petauer FRPSL

On October 25 (according to Ferchenbauer October 15, all other sources state October 25) 1916, following the example of Austria (such stamps were issued there for the first time on October 1 of the same year) and Hungary (issued on July 1, 1916) two stamps were issued for express delivery of printed matter. The motif on both stamps, for 2 (red orange) and 5 (olive green) Hellers, is the Mercury. They were printed in the copperplate technique, on white or slightly toned paper without a watermark, with different perforations. The gum is white and more or less shiny. Both values were printed in sheets of 100 pieces (10x10). The stamps were valid until the fall of the monarchy.

Comparable Austrian stamps could only be used within Austria, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany and Liechtenstein (its postal service was handled by the Austrian Post until 1921). I assume that the use of the stamps in question was limited to the same area.

According to the "Handbook" (see list of references and sources at the end of this article) these stamps can often be found with Austro-Hungarian war post stamps in Poland, Albania and elsewhere without any overprint; the vast majority are of philatelic origin.

Trial prints

There are two types of trial prints: the first type shows the individual stamps in the form of a perforated block and in the original colours. The second type also shows individual stamps in their original colours, but with a face value (never issued) of 3 Hellers.

In addition to the above, there are also imperforate stamps for both values.

All in all, it is the question; how much of the above is an expression of the actual needs when printing these stamps, and if or how much philatelic-inspired material is present, it is difficult, if not impossible, to determine today.



Figure 1: imperforate stamps

Issued stamps

Both stamps are known in two perforations. The normal perforation is linear 12 ½, and the value for 2 Hellers also exists linear perforated 11 ½ x 12 ½ (also imperforate is known and is quite rare), and the value for 5 Hellers also linear 11 ½ and 12 ½ (both exist cancelled and mint and they are rarer - especially the used- than the usual perforated ones, but much more common than the already mentioned mixed perforated stamp for 2 Hellers).

Although both stamps were primarily used for the express delivery of printed matter, examples (with or without the "Franco" overprint) are also known in regular mail, especially when the price of stationery with a printed stamp was increased from 8 to 10 Hellers (the latter use is not very common).



Figure 2: from left to right: 2 Hellers, normal perforation; same rare mixed perforation; same overprint Franco; 5 Hellers, normal perforation, same perforation 11 ½

Letters

We show some examples of the use of the 2 Heller stamp, which only covered the additional postage for express delivery of printed matter. The stamp for 5 Hellers covered both the basic postage for printed matter (3 Hellers up to 50 grams) and the allowance for express mail; both modelled after Austria.

Letters with these stamps do not appear very often, but of course they are not world rarities.



Figure 3: correctly rated printed matter sent from Bosanski Brod to Salzburg - 3 Heller for fee and 2 Heller for express fee.



Figure 4: an interesting letter from Sarajevo to Breslau (now Wroclaw). The letter is first properly franked 30 Heller (3 H printing, 25 H registered fee - the same as for a letter! and 2 H express fee). Since special stamps for express delivery of printed matter were issued in the meantime, a suitable stamp for 2 Heller was subsequently affixed, which made the letter overrated by 2 H.



Figure 5: a postcard sent from Mostar to Ljubljana, due to the increase in postage, franked with an express stamp (from Tomec's well-known correspondence).

Conclusion

After the end of the First World War, both values, like some other Bosnian stamps from the time of the Austrian post, were overprinted in the newly formed country of Yugoslavia. While the value for 5 Hellers in the perforation 11 ½ was no longer available, as it was all used up during the time of the Austrian post in Bosnia and Herzegovina, almost the entire edition of the 2 Heller stamp in the rare mixed perforation was overprinted. The latter also explains the fact that these stamped stamps do not exist without an overprint, and even cancelled ones are very rare, as only a few of them "survived". Overprinted stamps are known for several peculiarities; but that is beyond the scope of this article.

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5. Private collection

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  7. *The Postal Rates of Bosnia and Herzegovina* (JP90)
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  9. *Croatia/SHS: Independence Issue of 29 October 1918* (JP98)
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  11. *Montenegro Postal History (2nd edition)* (JP108)
  12. *A Short Guide to the Slovenian Regular Stamps of 1919 and 1920* (JP119)
  13. *The Postal History of the Serbian Nation in Exile 1915 – 1919* (JP124)
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